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cc: GACarver, Jr.
to: DCI/SAVA

25X1
23 JUL 69

MESSAGE FORM

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SAC SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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GAC RDP C/S

POO RDP C/S R/S

TAW RDP J/S

1. I WAS DISTURBED AND, FRANKLY, PERPLEXED BY STATEMENTS REPORTED IN REFS ALLEGING NEED FOR [] INTELLIGENCE ON VIETNAM, PARTICULARLY SAIGON STATION REPORTS, TO REACH POLICY LEVELS HERE AND, HENCE, THAT SUCH INTELLIGENCE IS NOT PRESENTLY GETTING THROUGH TO POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS. THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE UNFOUNDED AND INACCURATE TO A DEGREE THAT MAKES ME WONDER WHY THEY WERE MADE.

2. ADMIRAL LEMOS' STATEMENTS, BEING MORE SPECIFIC, ARE EASIER TO REFUTE. ALL FOUR OF THE [] REPORTS CITED IN REF A WERE GIVEN TDCS DISSEMINATION HERE: THREE IMMEDIATELY, THE FOURTH (YOUR []) AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DETAILS. ALL FOUR WERE SENT, AMONG

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OTHER PLACES, TO THE WHITE HOUSE, STATE, THE JCS, AND SEVERAL COMPONENTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, INCLUDING ISA. IT WOULD THUS APPEAR THAT ADMIRAL LEMOS HAS NOT BEEN READING HIS MAIL.

25X1

3. MOST [REDACTED] REPORTS FROM SAIGON ARE DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE TDCS MECHANISM TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICY OFFICES MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON VIETNAM DECISIONS. CERTAIN REPORTS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE (BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTENT AND/OR THE SENSITIVITY OF THEIR SOURCE) ARE SENT DIRECTLY TO SECRETARY ROGERS, SECRETARY LAIRD, DR. KISSINGER, GENERAL WHEELER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN AND HIS VIETNAM DEPUTY, AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN, OVER TRANSMITTAL SLIPS THAT I SIGN PERSONALLY. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE SET UP A SPECIAL SYSTEM OF TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDA THROUGH WHICH I FLAG MATTERS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE AND/OR GREAT SENSITIVITY FOR THE IMMEDIATE, PERSONAL AND EYES ONLY ATTENTION OF SECRETARY ROGERS AND

COORDINATING OFFICERS

DIRECTOR'S OFFICER

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TO

DR. KISSINGER AND WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED AT ROGERS' PERSONAL

25X1

INSTIGATION. (THIS IS THE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH [REDACTED] REPORTS ARE DISSEMINATED.)

4. IN ADDITION TO DISSEMINATING AND CIRCULATING THE FIELD INTELLIGENCE IN THE SAIGON STATION'S REPORTS, PLUS RAW REPORTS FROM MANY OTHER SOURCES, WE DISSEMINATE DAILY ALL SOURCE, FINISHED INTELLIGENCE PUBLICATIONS ON VIETNAM WHICH SYNTHESIZE, COLLATE AND DISTILL ALL OF OUR FIELD REPORTING. THERE ARE ALSO VIETNAM SECTIONS IN SPECIAL FINISHED REPORTS INCLUDING THE DAILY

25X1

BRIEF PREPARED FOR [REDACTED] IN ADDITION TO THESE REGULARLY SCHEDULED ALL SOURCE PUBLICATIONS, WE ALSO PREPARE A VARIETY OF SPECIAL MEMORANDA ON VIETNAM FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS, FREQUENTLY AT THEIR REQUEST. WE KNOW FROM THEIR COMMENTS AND REACTIONS THAT THESE REPORTS, PUBLICATIONS AND MEMORANDA ARE BOTH RECEIVED AND READ. FOR EXAMPLE, OUR RECENT (3 JULY) MEMO ON HANOI'S SHORT TERM INTENTIONS, WHICH DREW HEAVILY ON STATION

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CITE DIRECTOR

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REPORTING, WAS STUDIED WITH CARE, DISCUSSED AND PRAISED BY

25X1

[REDACTED], SECRETARY ROGERS AND SECRETARY LAIRD.

25X1

5. ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS, I (OR, IN MY ABSENCE,

25X1

[REDACTED], HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO REVIEW VIETNAM

25X1

MATTERS AND PRESENT [REDACTED] VIEWS THEREON AT [REDACTED] MEETINGS. 25X1

STATION REPORTING HAS NATURALLY CONSTITUTED A MAJOR INPUT TO THESE BRIEFINGS.

6. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TWO/THREE STAR LEVEL VIETNAM COORDINATING COMMITTEE, FORMERLY CHAIRED BY WILLIAM BUNDY, IS

25X1

NOW AN OFFICIAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF [REDACTED] WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

6

AS THE CHAIRMAN. THIS GROUP HOLDS THREE REGULAR MEETINGS EACH WEEK AND MEETS EVEN MORE FREQUENTLY WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES SO

25X1

WARRANT. [REDACTED] SITS ON THIS COMMITTEE AS MY REPRESENTATIVE

25X1

AND [REDACTED] ALSO ATTENDS MOST OF THE MEETINGS. THIS GROUP'S

SESSIONS ALWAYS INCLUDE A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CURRENT

DEVELOPMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT FIELD REPORTING, A FACT WHICH

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SHOULD HAVE BEEN WELL KNOWN TO ADMIRAL LEMOS WHO FREQUENTLY ATTENDS THESE MEETINGS AS THE ISA REPRESENTATIVE. IN ADDITION,

25X1

MEETS WEEKLY WITH SECRETARY LAIRD IN THE LATTER'S OFFICE. THESE SESSIONS LAST FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR, INVOLVE A COMPREHENSIVE, INFORMAL REVIEW OF VIETNAM TRENDS AND INVARIABLY INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTING FROM THE SAIGON STATION.

7. I HAVE OUTLINED THE ABOVE MATTERS IN SOME DETAIL BECAUSE

I WANT TO LAY TO REST ANY CONCERNS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN GENERATED IN YOUR MIND BY THE SPECIFIC COMMENTS OF ADMIRAL LEMOS OR THE INFERENCE YOU, QUITE REASONABLY, SEEM TO HAVE DRAWN FROM GENERAL WHEELER'S REMARKS. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, NO WAY OF

25X1

CONTROLLING WHAT DOCUMENTS OR TDCS REPORTS THE 6 STAFF

25X1

PHYSICALLY PLACES ON 4 DESK, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU FROM

25X1

CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT 1 INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT DOES

REACH AND IS ATTENTIVELY CONSIDERED BY POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS,

25X1

INCLUDING 4 WE WILL GET HOLD OF GENERAL WHEELER AND

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ADMIRAL LEMOS AND ENDEAVOR TO CORRECT THEIR MISCONCEPTIONS.

END OF MESSAGE

25X1 Summary of [redacted] (1) discussion with Rear Admiral Lemos on 19 July, during which Adm. Lemos suggested that [redacted] had a packaging problem in how to get its data before policy makers.

25X1 ** Conversation between [redacted] and Gen. Wheeler, during which point was stressed by Gen. Wheeler that reporting from [redacted] assets had to reach [redacted] for without such inside information on which to draw, it was possible that advice from policy makers insensitive to the realities in South Vietnam might influence United States to go too far too fast in the Vietnamization effort. 25X1

Richard Helms

Richard Helms

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C/FE Mr. Nelson (in draft)

DDP Mr. Karamessines (in draft)

COORDINATING OFFICERS

George A. Carver

SAVA

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